

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Deborah A. Norkavage called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR	DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE	PRESENT
1 ST DISTRICT	JOHN JAREMCHUK, JR.	PRESENT
2 ND DISTRICT	STEVEN BURG	PRESENT
3 RD DISTRICT	THOMAS S. NOVAK, JR.	PRESENT
4 TH DISTRICT	CHARLES MCKEWEN	PRESENT
5 TH DISTRICT	JOANN I. PERSONTI	PRESENT
6 TH DISTRICT	JOHN N. PASQUALE, JR.	PRESENT

Town Manager, John Giles – Present
Town Solicitor, Edward McNally – Absent
Lieutenant Christopher Workman – Present

Finance Committee Members:
Amy Olga – Present
Treasurer, Paul Chalfant – Absent
Ron Russo – Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
None

At this time Mr. Tim Frey spoke at great lengths regarding the process of issuing a bond and the right to issue bonds, as well as the pros and cons regarding bonds versus bank loans and there restrictions

Councilman Jaremchuk, Councilman Novak, Mayor Norkavage, the Finance Committee, Finance Director and Town Manager will serve on the Committee to discuss the bond/bank loan determination.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor and Council considered the following proposed budgets:

2010-2011 Proposed Operating Budget
2010-2011 Proposed Revenue Budget
2010-2011 Capital Budget

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to approve Step One of the Pay Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

ACTION: Councilman Jaremchuk amended his motion to approve Step One of the Elsmere Police Pay Plan except where Step Two is made necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE:

All in favor

Motion carried

Mayor and Council considered the approval of Resolution 10-10.

A Resolution setting the 2010-2011 Fiscal Years Property Tax Rates.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Personti to accept Resolution 10-10. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

At this time there was a lengthy discussion regarding Resolution 10-10 which also included the pros and cons of the possibility of increasing the property tax rate.

Councilman Burg commended the Town employees for their ideas and input regarding increasing incoming revenue.

The discussion continued regarding the possibility of increasing the Town of Elsmere property taxes.

Councilman Novak requested starting the budget process earlier in the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Tom Mitten of Oak Hill offered his opinion regarding the possible tax increase. He suggested to gradually increase the taxes instead of the residents being hit all at once.

Linda Sommerman of 113 Washington Avenue stated she would much rather see the property taxes be increased gradually and be able to keep the garbage service.

Councilwoman Personti suggested raising the maximum salary allowed in order to be eligible for the Senior Tax Exemption.

Mr. Giles reported that the number of residents that receive the Senior Tax Exemption is already significantly high now.

Councilman Jaremchuk called the question.

VOTE:

1st District Councilman Jaremchuk – No, 2nd District Councilman Burg – Yes, 3rd District Councilman Novak – No, 4th District Councilman McKewen – No, 5th District Councilwoman Personti - No, 6th District Councilman Pasquale –Yes, Mayor Norkavage – No

VOTE: 5 – 2

Motion failed

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to set the tax rate at \$0.875 per \$100 of assessed value along with a set base of \$219.00. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

ACTION: Councilman Jaremchuk amended his motion to accept Resolution 10-10 with the exception of changing the base rate for all properties to be \$219.00. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norkavage.

VOTE:

1st District Councilman Jaremchuk – Yes, 2nd District Councilman Burg – No, 3rd District Councilman Novak – Yes, 4th District Councilman McKewen – Yes, 5th District Councilwoman Personti – Yes, 6th District Councilman Pasquale – No, Mayor Norkavage – Yes

VOTE: 5 – 2

Motion carried

Mr. Giles discussed the suggestions that were submitted by the Town employees in order to bring in additional revenue.

Mr. Giles also suggested that the rooms used by the Oak Grove Senior Center and the Recreational Center be reevaluated on the space occupied by them since their needs have reduced greatly. He further stated since Ms. Heather Herold of the Finance Department took over Centralized Purchasing, she has saved the Town approximately \$20,000.00.

Mayor Norkavage suggested having a craft fair in the Town, possibly dedicating it to the weekend when the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade takes place.

Councilwoman Personti recommended putting out a donation jar at all the Movies in the Park Events. She also suggested sending out letters to businesses for possible donations.

Councilman Pasquale suggested having a chili cook-off in the Town.

Mr. Giles continued reporting on the suggestions that were submitted by each department in reference to bring in additional revenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Novak to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

These minutes summarize agenda and other issues discussed at this Council Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tapes may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE
MAYOR

JOANN I. PERSONTI
SECRETARY